

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 42

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 DECLARING MARCH 16, 2009 THE "DAY OF THE ROADRUNNER" AT THE
12 LEGISLATURE TO RECOGNIZE THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
13 ADOPTION OF THE ROADRUNNER AS NEW MEXICO'S STATE BIRD AND TO
14 HONOR AND CELEBRATE THE ROADRUNNER.

15
16 WHEREAS, the roadrunner, or chaparral, is New Mexico's
17 state bird; and

18 WHEREAS, the roadrunner was adopted as the state bird on
19 March 16, 1949; and

20 WHEREAS, the roadrunner darts, dashes and roams throughout
21 the state with the exception of the Four Corners area; and

22 WHEREAS, the image of the roadrunner with its distinctive
23 head crest, thick beak, long legs and exaggerated tail has
24 become an icon for all New Mexicans; and

25 WHEREAS, the colors of the roadrunner are said to reflect

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1 the colors of the desert; and

2 WHEREAS, the land-loving bird can run at speeds of up to
3 fifteen miles per hour and often sprints rather than flying;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the roadrunner is an opportunistic omnivore,
6 living on insects; small reptiles, including lizards and
7 snakes; rodents and small mammals; tarantulas; scorpions;
8 centipedes; spiders; small birds, eggs and nestlings; and
9 fruits and seeds, such as prickly pear cactus and sumac; and

10 WHEREAS, the roadrunner is the only known predator of the
11 tarantula hawk wasp; and

12 WHEREAS, the roadrunner, which may have a wingspan of up
13 to three feet wide, lowers its body temperature during cold
14 desert nights, going into a slight torpor to conserve energy;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the roadrunner warms itself during the day by
17 exposing dark patches of skin on its back to the sun; and

18 WHEREAS, the roadrunner is a monogamous creature and may
19 mate for life; and

20 WHEREAS, roadrunners may hold the same territory all year
21 long; and

22 WHEREAS, some think the roadrunner sets a good example for
23 human relationships, as both male and female care for their
24 young, feeding hatchlings, warming the nest and ensuring that
25 at least one parent stays with hatchlings in their first weeks

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1 of life;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the roadrunner, New Mexico's state
4 bird, be honored by all New Mexicans; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that March 16, 2009, the sixtieth
6 anniversary of naming the bird as a New Mexico icon, be
7 declared the "Day of the Roadrunner" at the legislature.

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